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Managing Water in the West

Folsom Dam – Integrating Reclamation Dam Safety and Corps Flood Control Responsibilities

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Background

Numerous activities are underway at Folsom Dam to address flood control, safety of dams, security, environmental, transportation

There are multiple congressional authorizations to perform modifications to Folsom Dam including:

- **Dam Safety (USBR)**
- **"MODS" – Increasing discharge capacity to full levee capacity at a reservoir elevation below the spillway crest elevation (USACE)**
- **"Raise" – Raising the crests of Folsom Dam and associated dams/dikes to provide 200-year flood protection to the City of Sacramento (USACE)**
- **Bridge – Construction of a bridge downstream of Folsom Dam to improve traffic flow (USACE)**

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The Collaborative Process

- **Following an unexpected increase in costs associated with the "Mod" Project, Reclamation and USACE began an effort to determine if there was a single project that could meet dam safety and flood control objectives of both agencies.**

- **An effort known as a Project Alternative Solutions Study (PASS) was initiated to determine if collaboratively, an integrated alternative existed that could yield significant savings and be implemented on a faster timeline. This effort eventually became known as the PASS I effort.**

- **In a follow-up activity, a joint team of Reclamation, USACE, State, and SAFCA staff developed the least cost alternative identified in PASS I in greater detail resulting in an alternative known as the "Integrated Federal Project." This follow up effort has become known as the PASS II effort.**

- **The concept for moving forward with an integrated federal project is for each agency to jointly submit appropriate reports to Congress addressing those elements of the integrated federal project to be constructed through their respective authorities (a SOD Modification Report for Reclamation).**

The Collaborative Process

- **Reclamation and USACE have established teams to coordinate these activities at management, project, and technical levels.**

- **Interagency Teams**
  - **PASS I and II Teams**
  - **Joint Environmental and Technical Teams**
  - **Oversight Management Group**
  - **Partners Meeting Group**
  - **Technical Support From Private Consultants**

- **Reclamation Internal Teams**
  - **Decision-Making Triad**
  - **Project Management Team**

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Assurances

- **DAM SAFETY ONLY ALTERNATIVE: Parallel to the combined effort with USACE, Reclamation has developed an alternative for reducing dam safety risks at Folsom Dam to be within Reclamation guidelines. This alternative serves two key purposes:**

- **Establish the maximum level of USBR participation in any joint federal project that could be justified on the basis of dam safety.**

- **Provide a backup plan for addressing dam safety issues in a timely fashion if an integrated project gets delayed.**

- **This alternative would be included in Reclamation's SOD Modification Report.**

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Challenges

- **Bringing two leading organizations in water resources management together presents many challenges.**

- **Differing Technical Standards**
  - **Simply accepting the most conservative of each organization's technical requirements has the potential of increasing project costs by multiples of $100 million.**

- **Merging Differing Processes and Schedules**
  - **There is need for a consistent presentation before the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and Congress.**
  - **There is a need for a concurrent presentation of Reclamation and Corps reports to OMB and Congress.**

- **Communications**
  - **Managing technical issues between various interrelated projects**
  - **Interagency technical and policy communications**
  - **Intra-agency Communications**

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Questions/Discussion

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